

## Defined – Living Out Our Identity

Ephesians 4:1-16 Therefore I, the prisoner of the Lord, implore you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling with which you have been called, 2 with all humility and gentleness, with patience, showing tolerance for one another in love, 3 being diligent to preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace...And He gave some *as* apostles, and some *as* prophets, and some *as* evangelists, and some *as* pastors and teachers, 12 for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ; 13 until we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ. 14 As a result, we are no longer to be children, tossed here and there by waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, by craftiness in deceitful scheming; 15 but speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all *aspects* into Him who is the head, *even* Christ.

### 1. Living out our identity connects us to \_\_\_\_\_.

Ephesians 4:2-3 with all humility and gentleness, with patience, showing tolerance for one another in love, 3 being diligent to preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

Romans 12:5 “So in Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others.”

- Understanding who we are in Christ immediately connects us to the body of Christ.

Larry Crabb: “Ordinary people have the power to change other people’s lives...The power is found in connection, that profound meeting when the truest part of one soul meets the emptiest recesses in another and finds something there, when life passes from one to the other.

### 2. Living out our identity connects us to \_\_\_\_\_.

Ephesians 4:11-12 And He gave some *as* apostles, and some *as* prophets, and some *as* evangelists, and some *as* pastors and teachers, 12 for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ.

Ephesians 2:10 “For we are God’s workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.”

- Gareth Icenogle: “Discipleship always moves us toward ministry and mission.”

### 3. Living out our identity leads us toward \_\_\_\_\_.

Ephesians 4:13 ...until we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ.

- Immaturity will keep us from being \_\_\_\_\_ in our service.
- Immaturity will hinder us from experiencing \_\_\_\_\_ community.
- Immaturity will keep us from \_\_\_\_\_ Jesus.  
1 Timothy 4:1-2 But the Spirit explicitly says that in later times some will fall away from the faith, paying attention to deceitful spirits and doctrines of demons, 2 by means of the hypocrisy of liars seared in their own conscience as with a branding iron

**4. Living out our identity secures our \_\_\_\_\_.**

Ephesians 4:14-15 As a result, we are no longer to be children, tossed here and there by waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, by craftiness in deceitful scheming; 15 but speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all *aspects* into Him who is the head, *even* Christ.

- **We are no longer tossed about by \_\_\_\_\_.**  
- What waves is he talking about?

- **No longer carried by wrong \_\_\_\_\_.**  
2 Timothy 4:3-4 For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but *wanting* to have their ears tickled, they will accumulate for themselves teachers in accordance to their own desires, 4 and will turn away their ears from the truth and will turn aside to myths.

- **No longer deceived by the \_\_\_\_\_.**

Which of the above benefits stands out in your mind as the most desirable at this point in your life?

What changes do you need to make to live out your identity in Christ?